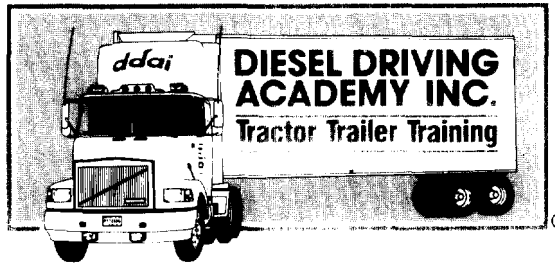


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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY

Dec 9 4 56 PM '97

December 4, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I fully support BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market and urge you and your colleagues to move swiftly to approve it. I would also like for my letter of support to be included in the official record of the BellSouth filing.

We need more choices in the telecommunications market - choices of products, as well as, choices of providers for local, long-distance, wireless, and Internet access services. We also need to have the choice of selecting one provider for all communications needs and eliminate the hassles involved with using multiple providers.

One way to accomplish this is to completely open the market to competition and let market forces prevail.

Competition for telephone service is slowly developing in Shreveport. BellSouth is the major provider of local service, but that is changing as KMC gains additional residence and business customers for local service. However, we are still waiting for a long-distance provider to choose to compete in this segment of the market.

When BellSouth begins to provide long-distance service, more and more companies will decide to enter the market, causing product and service options to rise and prices to fall. This is good for me and for business, in general, in Shreveport.

Agree with our public service commissioners and approve BellSouth's application immediately. The sooner BellSouth gains your approval, the sooner Shreveport, and the State of Louisiana, will benefit.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce A. Busada  
President & Executive Director

No. of Copies rec'd 021  
List ABCDE

BAB/nw



P. O. Box 36949

Shreveport, Louisiana 71133-6949

DDAI is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of  
The Council on Occupational Education (COE)

(318) 636-6300

FAX (318) 636-9736

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7158 Edgewater Drive  
Mandeville, La. 70471  
December 3, 1997

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
DEPT. OF THE SECRETARY

Dec 9 4 57 PM '97

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for BellSouth's application to provide long-distance service in the state of Louisiana. This request was filed on November 6, 1997.

It is my belief that BellSouth has met every requirement of the law, relating to the Louisiana application. In turn, the law was written so that citizens could best enjoy the benefits of competition.

Customers want the option of having one company to provide all of their communication needs. This is not possible, until all services can be provided by a company like BellSouth.

In Louisiana, BellSouth has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to new applications for service as well as maintaining existing customers' service. Therefore, the time for a positive response has arrived!

Yours truly,  
[Signature]



ROBERT R. "BOBBY" FAUCHEUX, JR.  
District 57

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dec 9 5:10 PM '97  
December 4, 1997  
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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

St. John District Office  
197 Belle Terre Blvd.  
P.O. Box 1960  
LaPlace, Louisiana 70069-1960  
Telephone: (504) 651-2888  
(800) 462-5017  
Fax: (504) 651-0151

St. James District Office  
230 Main Street  
P.O. Box 367  
Gramercy, Louisiana 70052  
Telephone: (504) 869-3944  
Fax: (504) 869-9180

Judiciary  
Natural Resources  
Ways & Means  
Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

For the past two years, Americans have been waiting to receive lower prices and more choices for telephone service as promised by Congress when it voted to approve the Telecommunications Act. However, these promises have not come to fruition, and it is for this very reason that I am writing you today.

I understand Bell South wants to provide long-distance service in Louisiana, and I urge you to approve their request as quickly as possible. If they enter the long-distance business in our state, other carriers will be encouraged to provide local telephone service on a wide-scale basis.

The resulting competition between local and long-distance service providers and other carriers will help drive prices down and will increase the number of options currently available to telephone users in this state. Healthy competition will also benefit our local economic development efforts, as the cost of telecommunications is a key factor businesses consider before relocating or expanding. Experts say that could mean nearly one billion dollars to this state, and frankly, our citizens cannot afford to miss out on these opportunities.

On behalf of my constituents, I strongly encourage you to say "yes" to Bell South and help spark full-fledged competition for telephone services in our state. It is in the public's best interest.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Robert R. "Bobby" Fauchoux, Jr.  
State Representative  
District 57

RRFJr:gn

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CC Docket No. 97-231

January 13, 1998

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 33 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

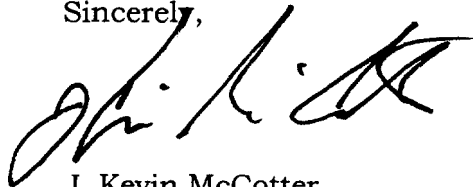
I understand that you are in the process of reviewing BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance service market in the State of Louisiana. As a BellSouth employee, I welcome the opportunity to bring additional choices and lower prices to our customers. I respectfully urge you to approve BellSouth's request.

Granting our request will enable us to expand services to our local customers. Consumers will finally have the option of consolidating all communications services with one provider and enable them to receive a single monthly bill. It would also stimulate some of the large long distance companies to offer local service to their customers as well. Regardless of who the customer ultimately selects as their provider, the customers win.

In addition, as other providers come into our area to compete, they will need to build infrastructure and invest in our community. Attractive jobs will be created in both the construction and service segments, further fueling our economy. Even though they are competitors, I personally welcome this economic growth because it's good for our area of the state which only emerged from a recession a few years ago.

Chairman Kennard, please consider our application very carefully and approve it without further delay. It's time to bring true competition to the local and long distance telephone service industry.

Sincerely,



J. Kevin McCotter  
10775 Longfellow Trace  
Shreveport, LA 71106

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JAN 21 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 12, 1998

COPIES OF LETTER FILED

JAN 21 1 33 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Although I retired from BellSouth several years ago, I still keep informed about matters that are important to my company. In particular, I have watched with great interest the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. Unfortunately, I am disappointed that we are not further along in the process. I would like to share my views with you and appreciate your indulgence.

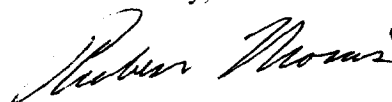
The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was designed to fully deregulate the telecommunications industry and to allow all companies to enter other segments of the market almost simultaneously. The local companies such as BellSouth were required to fully open their networks to competition and to prove that their entry into the long-distance market would be good for consumers.

In my opinion, BellSouth has done everything it was required to do, and then some. My company has met all of the 14 points in the bill's checklist and has developed systems that enable competitors to access the information they need in order to compete.

In addition, BellSouth has proven that the consumers of this state will benefit from its entry into long distance. Widespread competition will lower prices, increase choices and enable customers to select one company for all their communications needs, the way it used to be. Frankly, I would welcome those changes.

As a retired BellSouth employee and as a consumer, I implore you to approve BellSouth's long-distance application for the state of Louisiana and let BellSouth compete fair and square.

Sincerely,



RUBEN MORRIS  
7275 Golden Meadow Rd.  
GREENWOOD, LA. 71033-3208

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 14, 1998

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

JAN 21 1 33 PM '98

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am a BellSouth employee very interested in the future of my company, the future of the telecommunications industry and, most importantly, in providing customers the services they want.

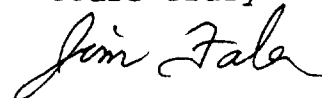
I come into contact with over 1,000 customers a year. Believe me when I tell you that there is a great deal of frustration in the marketplace. Customers want high-quality service at an affordable price and they want simplification in choosing their provider. They want the simplification of doing business with one company, whether it's BellSouth or one of our competitors, to provide all their communications needs, including local, long-distance, wireless, Internet access or entertainment services.

The purpose of my letter is to urge you and the other commissioners to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long distance business in Louisiana. It's the surest way to bring true competition to the long-distance business and the surest way to encourage the long-distance carriers to provide local telephone service and give customers simplification and choice.

Two competitors are already competing for our business customer in the northwest Louisiana market, KMC Telecommunications and ACSI. We both know, however, that choice and simplification will not reach all consumers until the big long distance companies come off the sidelines and offer service to local residential customers. I say, approve BellSouth for long distance and start giving customers what they want.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours Truly



Jim Faler  
10028 Thornwood Dr.  
Shreveport, La.

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE CALL RE FILED

JAN 21 1 33 PM '98

January 15, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As executive board members of the Ouachita Council of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers, we would like to express our opinion on BellSouth's application to become a competitive long-distance provider in Louisiana. We wholeheartedly support our company's request, as do all the Pioneer councils throughout this state. In fact, you will probably receive several copies of this letter, signed by executive board members serving on various councils.

Chairman Kennard, as employees we are well informed about the changes taking place in the telecommunications industry, particularly those associated with the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. In fact, each and every day we help our company, our customers and our competitors make the transition to a fully deregulated industry. We know first hand the steps BellSouth has taken to open its network up to its competitors and to allow them access to our operational support systems.

As Pioneers, we also have personal knowledge of our company's responsiveness and dedication to the communities we serve. Not only does BellSouth provide excellent customer service, but the company is also a good corporate citizen. Allowing BellSouth to provide long-distance service will enable us to better serve our customers and to meet their needs. Customers want the convenience of dealing with just one company for all their services, and your approval of BellSouth's application will finally give customers that option.

As employees of BellSouth and as volunteers who serve the communities in which we live and work, we urge you to approve BellSouth's request without delay and to let us take the next step in the deregulatory process.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Williams  
Ronald J. Duffey  
Shelma C. Arnold

James W. Swan  
Shelma B. Meneses  
Carol W. Miles  
Kathryn L. Coyle

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ENCLOSURE

OFFICE PHONE  
(318) 266-2121

**B.I. MOODY III**  
P.O. Box 1311  
CROWLEY, LOUISIANA 70527

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 28 PM '98

Tuesday, January 13, 1998

cc Docket No. 97-231

Honorable William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Re: BellSouth In Louisiana

As a resident of Southwest Louisiana and involved in several businesses in the entire state, I am very interested in BellSouth's proposal to provide long distance services in Louisiana. My personal experiences lead me to believe that competition is good for all customers and provides a wide range of services that might not otherwise be available at reasonable prices.

I would appreciate your courtesy in giving favorable consideration to BellSouth's application and respectfully request that you allow them to provide long distance services in the state as soon as possible.

Thank you for your interest.

Cordially,

*B. I. Moody III*

B. I. Moody III

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021



**PAUL A. TABARY, JR.**

**3712 Norwood Drive  
Chalmette, Louisiana 70043  
(504) 271-6611**

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January 14, 1998

**JAN 28 1998**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**JAN 21 3 13 PM '98**

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a retired BellSouth employee, I keep informed about matters that are important to my company and to the telecommunications industry in general. In particular, I have been extremely interested in the implementation of the Telecommunications Act, and frankly I am disappointed that more progress has not been made. I would like to take this opportunity to express not only my opinion but also the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees. In fact, you will likely receive numerous copies of this same letter from my former co-workers.

Chairman Kennard, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was designed to fully deregulate the telecommunications industry, allowing all telecommunications companies an opportunity to enter segments of the market formerly closed to them. All Congress required the local companies such as BellSouth to do was to open their networks to their competitors and to ensure that their entry into the long-distance market was in the public's best interest.

I believe BellSouth has done exactly what it was requested to do, not only by Congress but also by our state Public Service Commission. My company has painstakingly met each and every one of the 14 points on the federal checklist and has invested millions of dollars making sure competitors can connect to BellSouth's operational support systems.

Furthermore, BellSouth has overwhelmingly proven that its entry into long distance is in the public interest. Real competition will lower prices, increase the number of choices consumers have among services and service providers and will enable customers to once again select one company to handle all their communications needs. In today's fast-paced world, that kind of convenience is a welcome change.

Finally, if BellSouth is allowed to compete in the long-distance market, that will encourage the long-distance companies to compete in the local market for home telephone service. Until then, the three large long-distance carriers will continue to drag their feet in the residential market while they selectively seek to serve large companies in major metropolitan areas. This kind of cherry-picking harms the average customer and threatens universal service.

I and my fellow retired BellSouth employees strongly urge you to approve BellSouth's long-distance application in Louisiana and let BellSouth spark real competition in this state.

Sincerely,

*Paul A. Tabary*

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Jan 21 1 23 PM '98

Kenneth Trahan  
209 Marshall Dr.  
Houma, La. 70360  
January 8, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am a BellSouth employee and I am writing to request that you allow my company to participate in the long distance market in Louisiana. Over the past few years, I have watched competing companies target our high value business customers and demonstrate no interest in servicing residential customers. At the same time, they scream that the local market is not sufficiently open to competition to allow us into the long distance market.

Much of my career has been involved with providing service to residential customers and I can understand why a company would not be anxious to get into this market. It is labor intense for the revenue that is generated. My company, BellSouth, should not be penalized because other companies are reluctant to serve the residential market.

Competition is a mechanism that will automatically level a playing field. Our local Public Service Commission along with business leaders and individuals from across our state, agree that our entry into the long distance market is the best interest of the citizens of Louisiana. Please give BellSouth the opportunity to compete in the long distance market by approving our pending request.

Sincerely,

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List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
**JOHN P. PASQUA, SECRETARY**

110 PEBBLE BEACH DRIVE  
SLIDELL, LOUISIANA 70458  
504-641-2313

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 14, 1998

JAN 21 1 34 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As a retired BellSouth employee, I keep informed about matters that are important to my company and to the telecommunications industry in general. In particular, I have been extremely interested in the implementation of the Telecommunications Act, and frankly I am disappointed that more progress has not been made. I would like to take this opportunity to express not only my opinion but also the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees. In fact, you will likely receive numerous copies of this same letter from my former co-workers.

Chairman Kennard, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was designed to fully deregulate the telecommunications industry, allowing all telecommunications companies an opportunity to enter segments of the market formerly closed to them. All Congress required the local companies such as BellSouth to do was to open their networks to their competitors and to ensure that their entry into the long-distance market was in the public's best interest.

I believe BellSouth has done exactly what it was requested to do, not only by Congress but also by our state Public Service Commission. My company has painstakingly met each and every one of the 14 points on the federal checklist and has invested millions of dollars making sure competitors can connect to BellSouth's operational support systems.

Furthermore, BellSouth has overwhelmingly proven that its entry into long distance is in the public interest. Real competition will lower prices, increase the number of choices consumers have among services and service providers and will enable customers to once again select one company to handle all their communications needs. In today's fast-paced world, that kind of convenience is a welcome change.

Finally, if BellSouth is allowed to compete in the long-distance market, that will encourage the long-distance companies to compete in the local market for home telephone service. Until then, the three large long-distance carriers will continue to drag their feet in the residential market while they selectively seek to serve large companies in major metropolitan areas. This kind of cherry-picking harms the average customer and threatens universal service.

I and my fellow retired BellSouth employees strongly urge you to approve BellSouth's long-distance application in Louisiana and let BellSouth spark real competition in this state.

Sincerely,

*John Pasqua*

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 15, 1998

JAN 21 1 34 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As you consider BellSouth's request to provide long distance service in Louisiana, we urge you to take into account the opinions of retired BellSouth employees who have served this company well for many, many years. We continue to serve our company and our community through our volunteer work with the Metairie Life Member Club of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers. As officers of the club, we are writing to you to express our opinion, and the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees, on our company's long distance application. In fact, other Life Member Clubs throughout the state will likely send you a copy of this same letter, as well.

Our volunteer activities in the community keep us in constant contact with the elderly, the disabled and people on fixed incomes. These are the people who are most in need of a helping hand, as their financial resources are limited and every day tasks are more difficult to accomplish. These are also the people who would most benefit from your approval of BellSouth's request. For them, the telephone is a lifeline and a primary means of contacting the outside world.

Our company has promised to lower long distance rates by five percent, and that means big savings to people with limited monthly incomes. They don't make very many long distance calls and do not qualify for volume discounts. In addition, once BellSouth can provide both local and long distance service, customers can once again pick one company to provide all their telephone services, just like it used to be in the good old days of Ma Bell. This will make life much simpler for people who have to depend on others to handle their every day affairs.

As retired BellSouth employees and as volunteers in our community, we implore you to approve BellSouth's request and let our company provide long distance service in Louisiana. It will benefit the members of our community who need help the most.

Sincerely,

JAY Reynolds BOARD MEMBER  
Lyle Roloff BOARD MEMBER  
Elva Driscoll SECRETARY  
Helen J. Loheth TREASURER

Richard W. Szymanski PRESIDENT  
Chuck Utter VICE PRESIDENT  
Marie E. Brundage PAST PRESIDENT  
Shirley H. Salvatore BOARD MEMBER  
Nancy C. Lincate BOARD MEMBER  
Carol E. Lalanne BOARD MEMBER

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 15, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

JAN 21 1 34 PM '98

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As you consider BellSouth's request to provide long distance service in Louisiana, we urge you to take into account the opinions of retired BellSouth employees who have served this company well for many, many years. We continue to serve our company and our community through our volunteer work with the Camelia City Life Member Club of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers. As officers of the club, we are writing to you to express our opinion, and the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees, on our company's long distance application. In fact, other Life Member Clubs throughout the state will likely send you a copy of this same letter, as well.

Our volunteer activities in the community keep us in constant contact with the elderly, the disabled and people on fixed incomes. These are the people who are most in need of a helping hand, as their financial resources are limited and every day tasks are more difficult to accomplish. These are also the people who would most benefit from your approval of BellSouth's request. For them, the telephone is a lifeline and a primary means of contacting the outside world.

Our company has promised to lower long distance rates by five percent, and that means big savings to people with limited monthly incomes. They don't make very many long distance calls and do not qualify for volume discounts. In addition, once BellSouth can provide both local and long distance service, customers can once again pick one company to provide all their telephone services, just like it used to be in the good old days of Ma Bell. This will make life much simpler for people who have to depend on others to handle their every day affairs.

As retired BellSouth employees and as volunteers in our community, we implore you to approve BellSouth's request and let our company provide long distance service in Louisiana. It will benefit the members of our community who need help the most.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Wood*  
*Dorothy L. Abrams*  
*Ruby K. Mabe*

*Joan Hallman*  
*Jana M. Druff*  
*Ernie Carriere*  
*Adrian S. Bond*  
*Sybil D. Selley*  
*Grace Mc Clankers*

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021



CHARLIE DEWITT  
DISTRICT 25

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CC Docket No. 97-231

P.O. BOX 67  
LECOMPTÉ, LOUISIANA 71346  
(318) 776-5127

NATURAL RESOURCES  
APPROPRIATIONS

January 14, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your new position as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in central Louisiana to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve BellSouth's entry into the telecommunications market. I also request that this letter of support be included in the official record of their filing.

Most of my constituents live in rural areas and run small businesses, and the costs of communications services are a significant concern for both their businesses and their homes. But the major long-distance service providers have not opted to enter the local telephone service market here, probably because our rural area is more expensive to serve than an urban area with a concentration of larger businesses.

The citizens I represent were looking forward to the cost reductions promised by Congress. I believe, however, that when BellSouth is granted approval to compete for long-distance customers in Louisiana, the long-distance providers will be forced to offer local services to maintain existing market share. The entry of these new providers will drive prices down and encourage bundling of services, a major benefit for consumers who wish to choose one provider for all their communications needs.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission examined BellSouth's application and endorsed it after finding it in the best interest of its constituents. I believe the FCC should weigh heavily the opinion of the local commissioners and approve BellSouth's request. My constituents need the benefits that will follow the advent of true competition in the long-distance market in Louisiana.

Sincerely,

*Charlie DeWitt*

Charlie DeWitt

CD/mjm

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JAN 28 1998

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Home of the USA Weightlifting Development Center

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DOCKET FILED - ORIGINAL

629 Spring Street • Shreveport, LA 71101

Phone - 318-429-0660 • Fax - 318-429-0664

CC Docket No. 97-231

January 13, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 33 PM '98

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As the Executive Director of the Shreveport Regional Sports Authority, I am well versed on how competition increases the desire to excel. I am aware of how top teams can experience complacency without true competition. But when a legitimate competitor enters the arena, the number one team must do everything they can to defeat that competitor.

I have no reason to believe it is any different in the business world. We have all seen it happen time and time again, whether the industry has always been a competitive one or whether it has been recently deregulated.

If untethered competition is allowed to exist in the telecommunications industry, I believe every telephone user in Louisiana will benefit. As companies compete on a level playing field for customers, consumers will see prices decrease and choices increase, and they will see service improvements and convenience enhanced.

I wholeheartedly endorse BellSouth's request to compete in the long-distance business in Louisiana and ask you to approve their application without delay.

Sincerely,

Andy Rosenbaum  
Executive Director/CAO



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JAN 28 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Gulfgate Marine Company, Inc.**

P.O. Box 339  
Scott, Louisiana 70583

Telephone (318) 981-4200

December 1, 1997

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

RECEIVED

JAN 28 1998

Dear Mr. Kennard:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am writing to ask the Federal Communications Commission to approve BellSouth's application to enter the long-distance market in the State of Louisiana without delay.

Businesses in Louisiana have a difficult time finding a provider to meet all of their communications needs. As a result, they often have to use different service providers for local, long-distance, Internet access, and wireless services. With each provider, businesses must deal with different people or departments for installation, repairs, and billing issues -- a situation that quickly becomes cumbersome and complicated, at best. Just managing the relationships with several telecommunications companies consumes valuable management time and attention.

In many parts of Louisiana, we continue to see the three largest long-distance providers raise their prices even though their costs have decreased. Real competition won't allow this.

Companies operating in Louisiana as well as companies seeking to relocate here consider many factors in making future business decisions, including price and availability of telecommunications services. Competition in the telecommunications market will make our state a more attractive place for doing business and help us achieve our economic development goals.

Allowing BellSouth to enter the long-distance market will increase competition and result in better prices and more choices for consumers in Louisiana. In addition, new companies may relocate to the state to compete with BellSouth, bringing investment dollars and high-paying, technical jobs.

I understand that the Louisiana Public Service Commission painstakingly reviewed the BellSouth application this summer and endorsed it as being in the best interest of the public. I heartily agree with their finding and encourage you to grant BellSouth's request to provide long-distance service in Louisiana before year end.

Sincerely,

J. C. Moss  
President

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CC Docket No. 97-231

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12-5-97

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William Kennard,

Sir, I respectfully request that you lend your support behind allowing Bell South to enter the long distance business.

The Commission just last week voted to allow foreign competition to come into the market, but the commission is reluctant to allow a company like Bell South to enter the market.

Bell South is a very respected company that has provided the American public in our area with outstanding service for many years (including the remote Rural areas), for a reasonable rate. I find it repulsive that the commission would favor foreign competition over Bell South.

The word that we receive from the media was that competition would be in the best interest of the public, so I am asking you not to exclude Bell South from the competition.

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Respectfully

Charles Crutten  
319 Buffwood Dr  
Baker La 70714

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PEGGY WILSON  
COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

**The Council**  
**City of New Orleans**

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W40  
1300 PERDIDO STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112  
(504) 565-6335  
Fax (504) 565-7655

January 20, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231


The Honorable William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I am sure that you will agree that one of the most important goals of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is to foster robust competition in all sectors of the telecommunications industry. That is why I am writing you now in support of BellSouth's application to enter the long distance market in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission has examined the issues and has found that all statutory requirements have been met and that BellSouth's entry into long distance will serve the public interest. As a public official with an abiding interest in the economic future of New Orleans, I believe that BellSouth's presence in the long distance market will also stimulate competition throughout the local telecommunications industry.

Sincerely,

  
Peggy Wilson  
Councilmember At Large

PW/KM/mb

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 6, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Committee  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No. 97-231

Dear Chairman Kennard:


The Telecommunications Act of 1996 promised true competition in the communications market, but we are still awaiting its arrival. Although KMC recently began providing local service over their own facilities, their service is not available on a wide scale basis. Indeed, that will not happen until BellSouth enters the long-distance market and forces the large, national companies to compete for local service. Only then will Louisiana have real competition.

For the past two years BellSouth has worked to comply with all requirements established during passage of the legislation. This past summer they proved to the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) that their networks are fully open to competition. They further demonstrated compliance with all items on the 14-point checklist, received approval for their proposed rate structure and signed interconnection and resale agreements with providers that want to serve the region. Finally, BellSouth satisfied the LPSC that their request is in the best interest of Louisiana consumers and earned the LAPC's endorsement of their application. Your approval should naturally follow.

Louisiana stands to benefit significantly from being one of the first states nationally to have true competition in the communications market. In fact, the Shreveport/Bossier City area alone stands to gain more than \$1 million in economic investment and almost 800 new jobs in the ten years following the onset of true competition.

I have witnessed the blossoming of our tourist industry since the advent of casino gambling and am acutely aware of the positive effects of competition. I urge you to grant BellSouth's request to enter the long-distance market and open Louisiana to real competition in the communications industry.

Sincerely,

  
Preston R. Friedley, Jr., LCTP  
President

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**Lillian J. Johnson RECEIVED**  
5068 Stephen Girod Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122 JAN 28 1998  
(504) 288-0335

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 24 PM '98

January 9, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am a family member of a BellSouth employee, and is well aware of the telephone company's request to enter the long-distance market in Louisiana. I know that Congress has certain requirements that local telephone companies must meet before they are allowed to do so, however, I believe from everything that I have read in the newspapers and heard from people that work in the industry that BellSouth has met these requirements.

As a consumer, I truly believe that I will benefit if BellSouth is allowed to compete for long-distance service. I don't make a lot of long-distance call, however, I read that if BellSouth is allowed to provide long-distance service, it will lower my rates by at least 5%, no matter how few long-distance calls I make. Being on a fixed income, that's a savings that is very attractive.

BellSouth is a good company to its employees, its customers and the community. I urge you to approve BellSouth's request and let them compete in the long-distance market. Everybody wins!

Sincerely,

*Lillian Johnson*

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**P. Michael Adkins**

416 Dunmoreland Circle  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71106

CC Docket No. 97-231

January 16, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554


Dear Chairman Kennard:

In passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress intended for all consumers ( not just large businesses and affluent consumers) to benefit from the full deregulation of the industry. My understanding was that the Act was designed to open every aspect of the communications industry to every segment of the population across the nation virtually simultaneously. In reality, after two years, the market still is not fully open, and most consumers have few choices.

I believe that allowing companies such as BellSouth to enter the long-distance market is the best way to ensure that all Louisiana consumers benefit from the intent of the original legislation. It is my understanding that allowing BellSouth to compete in the long-distance market will enable other providers of local service to enter the Louisiana market. As these competitors begin serving the local market, they will diversify product lines and reduce prices to attract customers. These changes will especially benefit those of us who run small businesses with limited staffs and resources.

Chairman Kennard, I strongly encourage you and your colleagues on the Federal Communications Commission to approve BellSouth's request and to open the Louisiana telecommunications industry to true competition.

Sincerely,



P. Michael Adkins

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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January 15, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

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JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JAN 21 1 24 PM '98

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As you consider BellSouth's request to provide long distance service in Louisiana, we urge you to take into account the opinions of retired BellSouth employees who have served this company well for many, many years. We continue to serve our company and our community through our volunteer work with the West Bank Life Member Club of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers. As officers of the club, we are writing to you to express our opinion, and the opinion of thousands of other BellSouth retirees, on our company's long distance application. In fact, other Life Member Clubs throughout the state will likely send you a copy of this same letter, as well.

Our volunteer activities in the community keep us in constant contact with the elderly, the disabled and people on fixed incomes. These are the people who are most in need of a helping hand, as their financial resources are limited and every day tasks are more difficult to accomplish. These are also the people who would most benefit from your approval of BellSouth's request. For them, the telephone is a lifeline and a primary means of contacting the outside world.

Our company has promised to lower long distance rates by five percent, and that means big savings to people with limited monthly incomes. They don't make very many long distance calls and do not qualify for volume discounts. In addition, once BellSouth can provide both local and long distance service, customers can once again pick one company to provide all their telephone services, just like it used to be in the good old days of Ma Bell. This will make life much simpler for people who have to depend on others to handle their every day affairs.

As retired BellSouth employees and as volunteers in our community, we implore you to approve BellSouth's request and let our company provide long distance service in Louisiana. It will benefit the members of our community who need help the most.

Sincerely,

Lois V. Winchester  
President

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*[Signature]*, VICE PRES  
Dwight J. Modica (MAL)  
Heath Korman

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CC Docket No. 97-231

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 15, 1998

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

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JAN 28 1998

JAN 21 1 26 PM '98

Dear Chairman Kennard:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

As executive board members of the Central Council of the BellSouth Volunteer Pioneers, we would like to express our opinion on BellSouth's application to become a competitive long-distance provider in Louisiana. We wholeheartedly support our company's request, as do all the Pioneer councils throughout this state. In fact, you will probably receive several copies of this letter, signed by executive board members serving on various councils.

Chairman Kennard, as employees we are well informed about the changes taking place in the telecommunications industry, particularly those associated with the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. In fact, each and every day we help our company, our customers and our competitors make the transition to a fully deregulated industry. We know first hand the steps BellSouth has taken to open its network up to its competitors and to allow them access to our operational support systems.

As Pioneers, we also have personal knowledge of our company's responsiveness and dedication to the communities we serve. Not only does BellSouth provide excellent customer service, but the company is also a good corporate citizen. Allowing BellSouth to provide long-distance service will enable us to better serve our customers and to meet their needs. Customers want the convenience of dealing with just one company for all their services, and your approval of BellSouth's application will finally give customers that option.

As employees of BellSouth and as volunteers who serve the communities in which we live and work, we urge you to approve BellSouth's request without delay and to let us take the next step in the deregulatory process.

Sincerely,

Booker T. Booz Jr.

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CC Docket No. 97-231

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January 9, 1998

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The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

JAN 28 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

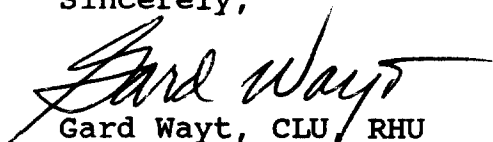
Cost-effective telecommunications products and services are vital for business today, especially in small businesses where resources must be used efficiently. That is why I support increased competition in this industry and why I support BellSouth's entry into the long-distance market.

As BellSouth competes with the national long-distance providers, these large companies will have to reconsider their absence in the local service market. In time, they will be forced to offer local service, as well, to maintain market share. In addition, all providers will begin developing innovative products and services, prices will decrease, and service packages will be developed to attract consumers to a single provider.

All of this will benefit the small business owner who now uses multiple providers for their communications services.

Chairman Kennard, I urge you to approve BellSouth's application today and allow true competition in the Louisiana telecommunications market now.

Sincerely,

  
Gard Wayt, CLU, RHU

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 13, 1998

CC Docket No. 97-231

JAN 21 1 27 PM '98

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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JAN 28 1998

Dear Chairman Kennard:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

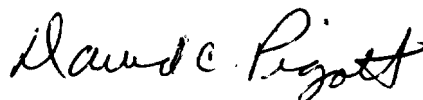
I am a BellSouth - Louisiana employee and I am writing to you to urge approval of the company's application to provide long distance service in Louisiana. There has been a lot of attention around the company and in the media lately about the FCC's belief that BellSouth doesn't face enough competition to be allowed in the long distance business.

I would tell you that we have done everything required of us by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the FCC and Congress. And I firmly believe those actions have prompted numerous competitors to enter the market. We have been more than aggressive in opening our local network; how else would you explain the fact that 250 companies regionwide and 87 in Louisiana have signed interconnection and resale agreements with us? Additionally, the company spent \$500 million last year developing systems our competitors can use to interface with our ordering and billing systems. On August 13, 1997, these systems were publicly demonstrated to the Louisiana Public Service Commission in Baton Rouge and they were determined to work just fine.

Two companies, ACSI and KMC Telecommunications, are competing against us in Shreveport/Bossier City. Both companies are installing miles of fiber optic cable throughout the area and KMC will be turning up their own switching machine any day. BellSouth has lost close to 10,000 customers to these and other competitors in Louisiana, and the losses regionwide are growing at about 25 percent per month.

It seems to me that there is plenty of competition in the market, just like Congress intended. We have done everything required of us; I know -- I'm on the firing line every day. Again, I ask you to approve our application. It's the right thing to do in the name of competition and fair play.

Yours truly,



David C. Pigott  
7746 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71107

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